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ACTION

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TRANSIT/101158Z/101333Z/001:35TOR0411331
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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ/SCJ2-AD
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~~NOFORN~~

REC'D DS-4B 14 FEB '78

SUBJ: THIS IS (b)(3):10 USC 424 (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424
1. COUNTRY: ~~ARGENTINA (AR)~~/ (b)(3):10 USC 424
2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. TITLE: (U) OTHER - FRENCH REACT AGAINST ARGENTINE MILITARY FOR DISAPPEARANCE OF FRENCH NUNS
4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A
5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 7801
6. DATE OF REPORT: 780207
7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 780207, BUENOS AIRES
8. REFERENCE: (b)(3):10 USC 424
9. ASSESSMENT: SOURCE: | | INFO: | |
10. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424
11. REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT

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12. PREPARING OFFICER: (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

13. APPROVING AUTHORITY

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

14. SOURCE:

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: ~~DIRC = NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT~~

16. SUMMARY: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THE GOVT OF FRANCE HAS TAKEN ACTION AGAINST ARGENTINE MILITARY IN RESONSE TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO FRENCH NUNS IN DECEMBER.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

22. DETAILS: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~

, DURING A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ATTACHE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HOST COUNTRY FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICERS, SOURCE BECAME ENGAGED IN A CONVERSATION CONCERNING THE REACTIONS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA. DURING HIS DISCUSSION, WHICH CENTERED PRINCIPALLY ON THE USG REACTIONS TO HUMAN RIGHTS, SOURCE STATED THAT FRANCE HAD CANCELLED TWO POSITIONS FOR ARGENTINE ARMY OFFICERS TO STUDY IN THE FRENCH WAR COLLEGE. SOURCE SAID THAT THE CANCELLATION OF THE TWO POSITIONS WAS A DIRECT REACTION BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO FRENCH NUNS IN DECEMBER 1977. WHEN ASKED BY A LATIN AMERICAN ATTACHE IF THE FRENCH HAD STOPPED SELLING ARMS TO ARGENTINE, SOURCE JOKINGLY REPLIED THAT THE NUNS WERENT THAT IMPORTANT.

COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THIS IS OUR FIRST INDICATION THAT THE GOF HAS TAKEN DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THE ARGENTINE MILITARY AS A RESULT OF THE UNRESOLVED DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TWO NUNS. TO BE DETERMINED IS WHETHER OR NOT THE GOF WILL TAKE ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TO CONVINCE THE GOA, AND PARTICULARLY THE MILITARY, THAT IT IS SERIOUS ABOUT ITS ATTEMPTS TO RECOVER THE NUNS. THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOF INDICATES THAT THAT GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT THE ARGENTINE MILITARY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES.

COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THIS SANCTION BY THE FRENCH WILL HIT THE ARGENTINES HARD. FOR MANY YEARS THE BIGGEST PLUM WHICH A MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICER COULD RECEIVE HAS BEEN ASSIGNMENT TO THE FRENCH WAR COLLEGE. IT MEANS TWO YEARS RESIDENCE IN PARIS AT A VERY HIGH PER DIEM RATE. ONLY THE TOP OFFICERS ARE SELECTED. THE FRENCH SANCTION FURTHER

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COMPLICATES THE MILITARY TRAINING PROBLEM OF THE ARGENTINES NOW THAT US I-MET (GRANT) TRAINING IS NOT AVAILABLE AND AS THE US CONTINUES TO HOLD OFF ON THE SALE OF TRAINING COURSES. THIS MSG COORD W/AMEMBASSY ~~BBS DEC 84~~

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